



Summer 2013

Illinois Volunteers Recognized with Governor's Service Award

The fourth annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards ceremony was held Thursday, April 18, 2013, at the Governor's Executive Mansion in Springfield. The event recognized 23 outstanding volunteers and five businesses from across the state for their service to their communities.

The reception included a welcome from Executive Director, Brandon Bodor, words from the Volunteer Recognition Chair, Barb Tubekis, and remarks from Fred Nettles, Serve Illinois Commission Chair. Merri Dee, a Serve Illinois Commissioner, served as master of ceremonies. Awards were distributed by Bodor, Tubekis, and Nettles.

Awardees were selected by Governor-appointed Serve Illinois Commissioners from a pool of over 180 nominations, an all-time high. Awards were distributed in the categories of Youth, Adult, and Senior, as well as the National Service Award Categories of AmeriCorps, and Senior Corps. New to the Awards this year was a Business Service Award, awarded to a for-profit business. Each category of awards was given to individuals and businesses from each of the five regions of Illinois.

The following volunteers were honored with the Governor's Volunteer Service Award. To see photos and biographies of each recipient, visit www.serve.illinois.gov.



Sophia Marcolla, West Central Youth Award Winner, was the youngest of the awardees at 12 years old.



Exelon Corporation was awarded with one of the first ever Business Service Awards.

West Central Illinois Award Recipients: Dan Dietrich, Katie Brunk, Dan Thompson, Jim Fisher, Sophia Marcolla, and Hy-Vee on Harrison

North East Illinois Award Recipients: Daniel Sylvester, Melissa Rothman, James Adams, Artie Walter, Sarah Dynia, and Exelon Corporation Employee Volunteer Program

North West Illinois Award Recipients: Greg Noe, Jackie Whitworth, Judy DeBoever, Patricia Umland, Blake Matson, and Finnegan's RV Center

Southern Illinois Award Recipients: Corinne M. Hansen, Evelyn Martinez, Kim Strellis, Howard Hagler, Paige Logan, and Old National Bank

East Central Illinois Award Recipients: Amy Hagen, Michael Murray, Ruth Hieronymos, and Illinois National Bank



"The mission of the Serve Illinois Commission is to improve communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service throughout the state."

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From the Executive Director



This Summer Newsletter is centered on recognition, and I would like to start by recognizing the contributions of our outgoing Chair, Jill Heise. Over the last two years with her at the helm, she has impressively guided the Commission to accomplishing some important milestones. For example, Illinois has jumped six spots in the rankings to number 25 for volunteer rate among states; the Commission focused on expanding its service network through initiatives like Cities of Service, a coalition for which Illinois is now number 1 in the nation for mayoral representation; to promote the contributions of all sectors in service, the Governor and Commission now recognize the business community as a category in the annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. On a personal note, I would like to thank Jill for her mentorship to me as a new Commission executive director.

The Commission is poised to build on the momentum that Jill has built. I have full confidence that the vision, enthusiasm, and experience that Fred Nettles and Don Baden bring to the table will yield many more significant milestones over the coming years.

As we expand the service infrastructure here in Illinois—a key tenet of our strategic plan—we welcome your partnership in that process. Whether you represent a municipality or public agency, a non-profit or religious organization, a large corporation or small business, we want you to invest in service here in Illinois. The result will be an Illinois that is recognized nationally as a leader, and that success will only breed more success for our residents and our communities.

Yours in service,

Brandon Bodor
Executive Director, Serve Illinois Commission

From the Chair



I am honored and excited to be elected as the new Chair of the Serve Illinois Commission. I am looking forward to the great things we can accomplish in Illinois over the next year.

The ultimate purpose of the Commission is to promote and support community service, and to stimulate new volunteerism and community service initiatives and partnerships. It is my personal goal to involve all volunteers in Illinois to help fulfill this mission.

Recently, in my quest to grasp the full scope of the Commission, I looked up the meaning of civic engagement. Civic engagement or civic participation is defined as individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern. The key to civic engagement is to empower individuals to discover their purpose and facilitate their gifting. As the new Chair of the Serve Illinois

Commission, facilitating individuals' gifting and talents is my first and foremost priority. My personal philosophy and greatest privilege is to help others find their place and release their potential to solve problems within their community.

The graveyards are full of great men and women who never became great because they did not give their ability responsibility. Sir Winston Churchill said that "the price of greatness is responsibility." My job as a leader is to identify those who are willing to take the journey of discovery, equip them with the tools they need, and release them into their life assignment. One great author said "building a better you is the first step to building a better America." My focus is to develop processes to help individuals to discover that "better you" and join them with others to solve problems.

I am personally encouraged by the service happening across the state, which is greatly shown in this issue of the newsletter. My hope is to continue to inspire an increase in service in Illinois.

Yours in Service.

Sincerely,

Frederick D. Nettles Jr.
Chair, Serve Illinois Commission

Several Illinois Colleges Recognized on President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, launched in 2006, annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve.

The 2013 Honor Roll recipients were announced at the American Council on Education's 95th Annual Meeting Leading Change on March 4, 2013, in Washington, D.C. The 2013 Honor Roll includes several Illinois colleges, including:

Augustana College, Rock Island
Bradley University, Peoria
Concordia University Chicago, River Forest
DePaul University, Chicago
Dominican University, River Forest
Eastern Illinois University, Charleston
Elmhurst College, Elmhurst
Eureka College, Eureka
Governors State University, University Park
Illinois College, Jacksonville
Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington
Lake Forest College, Lake Forest
McKendree University, Lebanon
Millikin University, Decatur
Monmouth College, Monmouth
North Central College, Naperville
North Park University, Chicago
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb
Rockford College, Rockford
Roosevelt University, Chicago
Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville
The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Chicago
Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights
Trinity International University, Deerfield
University of Illinois Springfield, Springfield



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Serve Illinois Commission Elects New Leadership

The Serve Illinois Commission would like to introduce the newly elected leadership of the 40-member governor-appointed Commission. During their first meeting of 2013, the Commission elected Frederick D. Nettles Jr. and Don Baden as the new Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Nettles and Baden will champion the Commission in their efforts to improve Illinois communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service throughout the state during the next year.

Nettles is the Founding Pastor of Living Word Fellowship Ministries, a vibrant, spirit-filled multi-racial Church that ministers to both the heart of its members and the community as a whole. Nettles was born and raised in Harvey, Illinois. He has been married to Wanda

Nettles for thirty years and they have one daughter, LaTrice. He is the Senior Pastor of Living Word Fellowship Church and CEO of Living Word Fellowship Ministries in Springfield.

Baden is a retired Professor of Education from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. For sixteen years, he served as Director of AmeriCorps/East St. Louis. He currently serves as the President of the Fairview Heights Library Board and volunteers

in a variety of community agencies. Father of three, and grandfather of six granddaughters, he resides in Fairview Heights with his wife, Elaine.

The Commission thanks Nettles and Baden for their commitment to the Serve Illinois Commission, and looks forward to fulfilling the vision of their new leadership.

Congratulations Fred and Don!



Fred Nettles, Chair of the Serve Illinois Commission



Don Baden, Vice-Chair of the Serve Illinois Commission

IPHA AmeriCorps Member Puts Training to Good Use

On her way to work one morning in January, Alex Boles, an IPHA AmeriCorps member at Macoupin County Health Department, came upon a two vehicle accident that had just occurred. Without hesitation, she stopped her vehicle and ran to the vehicles to check on the people involved. While there were a few other bystanders who had stopped to assist, Alex took charge and began to delegate duties. She announced that she was trained in First Aid and CPR and gave bystanders tasks such as calling 9-1-1 and gathering blankets and other materials from her vehicle. She demonstrated

excellent First Aid skills including checking the scene for potential dangers, asking the victims questions to assess injuries, and providing the victims with anything she could to keep them warm

(including her own coat). A nurse who happened to be traveling to work stopped to assist and Alex was able to update the nurse on the situation.

IPHA AmeriCorps Program Coordinator Jennifer Hopper was extremely proud of Alex and her courage, skills, and kindness, and said she was "very proud to say that she is an IPHA AmeriCorps member. [Alex's story] shows how important it is to be trained in CPR and First Aid and to continue to get re-certified because you never know when you might need to use that training; and it demonstrates how selfless Alex, and AmeriCorps members in general, are and how they demonstrate the AmeriCorps motto of 'getting things done'."

Great job, Alex!



Alex is serving her AmeriCorps hours with the Macoupin County Health Department.

Pat Ferrell of Peoria Named National Big Brother of the Year

Pat Ferrell of Peoria has been named the 2013 National Big Brother of the Year by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

The award honors long-term mentors whose volunteer service exemplifies how Big Brothers Big Sisters improves the odds for thousands of vulnerable children across the country. Ferrell will receive the award at the national Big Brothers Big Sisters conference this June in Denver, Colorado.

Earlier this year, Ferrell was also named the Illinois Big Brother of the Year. Ferrell serves as the president of the board of the Heart of Illinois Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. He works for RLI, Inc.

When Pat was matched with his “Little Brother” Jamir just over four years ago, Jamir was quiet, introverted, and struggling in school. During the first year of their match, Jamir was dealing with some difficult family issues. His grades were slipping and he wasn’t himself.

“I could sense a lack of self-confidence. He regularly skipped school and failed to turn in homework, resulting in Cs and Ds on his report card. I made a deal with him that if he turned in all of his homework and had no unexcused absences for three straight weeks, I would bring him lunch from his favorite restaurant,” Ferrell said. “He made all As and Bs on his next report card. He has continued to keep his GPA above 3.0. He just needed someone to show interest and hold him accountable.”

“I have witnessed firsthand the impact that can be made in the lives of our children,” Ferrell said. “I believe in this organization. In addition to becoming a Big Brother four years ago, I also now serve as president of our local Big Brothers Big Sisters’ board. It has been a very rewarding experience.”



Jamir, left, and Pat, right, were matched together just over four years ago.

About Heart of Illinois Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters operates under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. Most children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters are in single-parent and low-income families or households where a parent is incarcerated. As the nation’s largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers (“Bigs”) and children (“Littles”).

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides a system of ongoing evaluation and support, which is proven by independent studies to help families by improving the odds that “Littles” will perform better in school and avoid violence and illegal activities, and have stronger relationships with their parents and others. Headquartered in Philadelphia with a network of nearly 400 agencies across the country, Big Brothers Big Sisters serves a quarter million children annually. Learn how you can positively impact a child’s life, donate or volunteer today at www.hoibbbs.org.



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Top Illinois Youth Volunteers Honored for Service

Paige Logan, 18, of Altamont and Jashira Bolden, 13, of Belleville were named Illinois' top two youth volunteers of 2013 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, now in its 18th year, is conducted by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Paige, a senior at Altamont High School, became a leading voice against bullying on the local, state and national level after she won a local pageant in the eighth grade and then experienced attacks online and became the subject of gossip and rumors from classmates - and, in some cases, even from their parents. Paige decided that she had to do something to keep the same thing from happening to others, so she began traveling to schools and universities to speak about bullying, and won grants to conduct a leadership camp and an anti-bullying program in her county. While the public is now more aware of the problem, Paige says bullying is more complicated today than ever before. "All day it happens at school and then when you think you are safe in your own home, you're not," she said. "Because of the use of cell phones and social networks, bullying is now a 24-hour event."



Paige uses personal experience to combat bullying.

Jashira, an eighth-grader at Unity Lutheran School, is the founder and CEO of an organization that conducted a series of fundraisers to benefit five homeless shelters in East St. Louis. "I decided to raise money for the less fortunate because I knew that everyone didn't have the funds to provide for themselves," said Jashira. She discussed her desire with her parents, and then began planning fundraising activities. Her first effort - selling partnership cards from Krispy Kreme - raised \$250, which she used to purchase bath sets for homeless adults and toys for their children. Next, she collected more than \$1,000 from a variety of donors and put together 70 Easter baskets for residents of three local shelters, containing soap, towels and other items. The following year Jashira organized a fundraising dinner, and last year raised money by hosting a fashion show. With her proceeds, she has provided food and gifts to shelter residents, and she has even helped pay some of the shelters' bills.



Jashira has a passion for helping those in need.

As State Honorees, Paige and Jashira each will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C., where they will join the top two honorees from each of the other states and the District of Columbia for four days of national recognition events. During the trip, 10 students will be named America's top youth volunteers of 2013.

Distinguished Finalists

The program judges also recognized eight other Illinois students as Distinguished Finalists for their impressive community service activities. Each will receive an engraved bronze medallion.

These are Illinois' Distinguished Finalists for 2013:

Mark Crenshaw, 18, of Eureka	Alex Marck, 18, of Freeport
Jake Herb, 16, of Barrington	Michael Bryant Powell, 18, of Belleville
Isha Jog, 17, of Schaumburg	Jen Rubino, 18, of Park Ridge
Ingrid Lustig, 18, of Lake Bluff	Matthew Williams, 15, of Vienna

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a Volunteer
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**Commission on Volunteerism
and Community Service**

In addition to the searchable portal of more than 140,000 volunteer opportunities statewide, Serve.Illinois.gov hosts a wide variety of volunteer resources:

- Ability to Post Volunteer Opportunities
- Statewide Volunteer Management Network Conference & Meeting Information
- National Service Program Information (AmeriCorps, Senior Corps & Learn and Serve America)
- Volunteerism Research & Volunteerism Web Links
- Featured Volunteer Stories
- Serve Illinois Calendar of Events

We want to hear from you!

If your agency is currently preparing for upcoming volunteerism or national service events, or if you have recently completed an event and would like to share your story, we want to hear from you. For newsletter or website publication consideration, please send information to dhs.serveillinois@illinois.gov. Web links, photos accompanying a story and professional development resources are also encouraged.

Training and Professional Development

Save the Date

2013 Volunteerism Conferences



Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference:
June 13, 2013 – Springfield, IL
www.civconference.org

Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration:
August 8, 2013 – Chicago, IL www.icova.info



Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference:
September 26, 2013 – Belleville, IL
www.sivc.net

Northwest Illinois / MVDOVIA Volunteerism Conference: October 18, 2013 – Moline, IL
www.nwivc.net



THANK YOU

“The Serve Illinois Commission and Staff would like to thank Jill Heise for her leadership and dedication as the Chair of the Serve Illinois

Commission. Jill has worked to further the progress and success of the Commission and will continue to do so as she steps down from her Chair position. Thank you, Jill, for your service!”



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Upcoming Days of Service

June 7, 2013	Tutor/Mentor Leadership and Networking Conference www.tutormentorconference.org	September 11, 2013	9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance www.911dayofservice.org
June 13, 2013	Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference www.civconference.org	October 10, 2013	National Service Recognition Day www.serve.illinois.gov
June 19-22, 2013	National Conference on Volunteering and Service www.volunteeringandservice.org	October 18, 2013	Northwestern Illinois/ MVDovia Volunteerism Conference www.nwivc.net
August 5-8, 2013	Midwest Community Development Institute (CDI) www.midwestcdi.org	October 26, 2013	Make a Difference Day www.handsonnetwork.org
August 8, 2013	Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration www.icova.info		



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